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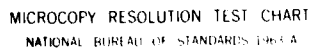
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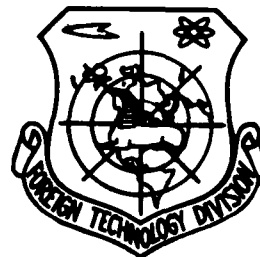
## FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



THE CALCULATION OF THE HEAT TRANSFER ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
INJECTION OF METHANE GAS AT THE STAGNATION POINT OF THE  
DISSOCIATED BOUNDARY LAYER OF THE LAMINAR AIR FLOW

by

Y. Longhua, Y. Xintian



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The Calculation of the Heat Transfer Associated with the  
Injection of Methane Gas at the Stagnation Point of the  
Dissociated Boundary Layer of the Laminar Air Flow

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ABSTRACT

By using methane gas as the injecting medium, this paper examines in detail the effect of the chemical combustion reaction on the heat transfer at the stagnation point of the laminar flow boundary layer associated with a blunt rotating object. The following assumptions are made concerning the characteristic transport properties of the mixed gases. The  $Pr$  and  $Le$  numbers as well as  $\rho\mu$  are set to be constants. The boundary layer is assumed to be in a state of thermodynamic equilibrium. Some calculations are also conducted by treating the methane gas as an inert gas so that the effect of heat release associated with the chemical combustion reaction can be examined by cross comparison.

I. INTRODUCTION

After the appearance of the thermal ablation phenomenon at the front section of the material, the thermal environment around the front section of a supersonic flying object changes

drastically. The change occurs since the speed in which foreign matter is introduced into the boundary layer is high. This can decrease the heat flow added on the surface of the object by its environment. In the same time, however, the heat flow can also be increased by this added matter if it undergoes chemical reaction which releases heat within the boundary layer. Extensive research has been conducted abroad concerning the computation of heat flow associated with the chemical reactions of added matters in the laminar flow boundary layer. For example, references [1] - [3] addressed this problem by solving the solution numerically. They studied the thermal ablation of graphite by solving the equations of the stagnation point of the laminar flow boundary layer in which multiple sets of elements and combustion reactions exist. Based on their results, it seems that even though there are many chemical reaction equations which increase the number of the system elements and the transport coefficients of the mixed gases are also increasingly complicated, theoretical study can still be done with some reasonable or some fixed simplifying assumptions. The theoretical study can provide insight into the mechanism of the chemical reactions which affect the thermal environment. Reference [4] assumed that the transport coefficients  $\rho\mu/\rho_c\mu_c = 1$ ,  $Pr=1$  and  $Le=1$ . It applied the combustion area

model and derived numerical solutions to examine separately the combustion processes within the boundary layers of a blunt half sphere and a flat plate, with hydrogen gas as the injecting medium. In the area of the approximated solutions, reference [5] proceeded with some general discussion and provided some qualitative concepts about the equilibrium and the frozen catalytic wall associated with the chemical reactions of the added matter at the stagnation point of the laminar flow boundary layer by assuming  $Le = 1$ . Similar discussion was also carried out under the frozen catalytic wall condition of  $Le \approx 1$ . For certain materials, such as the mixed gases with  $Le$  numbers close to 1, it also provided the methods for obtaining approximated quantitative estimates. Reference [6] treated the carbon combustion problem by using the combustion surface model. This model, however, lacks generality.

The necessary results obtained from numerical computations are still incomplete as far as the research of the engineering computational method is concerned. This is why that this paper considers the use of methane gas as the injecting medium for the numerical computation of the combustion of the added matter at the stagnation point of the boundary layer. The computation assumes that after methane is injected into the high temperature boundary layer, the following two major chemical reaction processes and a decomposition-reconstitution reaction will occur:






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\* This paper was presented at the Huang Mountain Thermal Conducting Material Science Meeting in October, 1981.

When the static temperature is not much higher than 4000K, we can reluctantly neglect the effect of the decomposition of the nitrogen molecule.  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  will not be decomposed into hydrogen and oxygen and all other possible chemical reactions will be treated as of only secondary importance and hence neglected. At the stagnation point, the velocity is zero so we can assume that the chemical reaction mentioned above will be at equilibrium state. The method for computing the transport coefficient of some element (such as methane) is unknown so we assume that  $\mu$ ,  $\text{Pr}$  and  $\text{Le}$  to be constants. The limited computational examples use the characteristic conditions of a flow temperature  $T_s = 5000\text{K}$  at the stagnation point and a pressure  $P$  which equals one atmosphere.

## II. BASIC EQUATIONS AND TREATMENT METHOD

Starting from the equations of continuity, element diffusion and energy (13)-(15) as well as the equation of motion (17) associated with the basic equations of a laminar flow boundary layer of a rotating body in decomposed gases derived by reference [7], we can apply the following

transformation by neglecting the thermal diffusion

$$\eta = (r u_c / \sqrt{2\xi}) \int_0^\eta \rho d\eta, \quad (4)$$

$$\xi = \int_0^\eta \rho u_c u_c r^2 dx$$

and we can introduce the dimensionless variables  $f_\eta = u/u_c$ ,  $g = (h + u^2/2)h_s$ ,  $f = \int_0^\eta f_\eta d\eta + f(0)$ ,  $\theta = T/T_s$ . Using a method similar to that in reference [7], we can further use the conditions of the air flow at the stagnation point and the shape of the object  $r \approx x$ ,  $u_c^2 \ll h_s$ ,  $u_c \approx (du_c/dx)_s$ ; to convert the equations mentioned above into a set of ordinary differential equations with dimensionless coefficients (this will automatically be satisfied after the transformation of the continuity equation):

$$[(Lc/Pr)C_{i,\eta}]_\eta + fC_{i,\eta} = \omega_i, \quad (5)$$

$$i = 1, 2, \dots, 7$$

$$[(l/Pr)g_\eta]_\eta + fg_\eta + \{[(Lc-1)/Prk][\sum(h_i - h_i^0)C_{i,\eta}]\}_\eta = 0 \quad (6)$$

$$(H_{\eta\eta})_\eta + H_{\eta\eta} + (\rho/\rho - f_\eta^2)/2 = 0 \quad (7)$$

In these equations the subscripts " $\eta$ " represent the derivatives taken with respect to  $\eta$ . Here we have already assumed that the diffusion coefficients  $D_i$  of all the system elements are the same. In other words, the Lewis numbers are the same. Other symbols include the enthalpy  $h = \sum C_i (h_i - h_i^0)$ ,  $h_i = \int_0^T c_{pi} dT$ ,  $\omega_i$  - the mass formation rate of the  $i$ -th system element in the chemical reaction,  $T$  - temperature,  $\rho$  - density and  $C_i$  - the mass concentration of the  $i$ -th system element. The chemical symbols, molecular weights and the formation enthalpy  $h_i$  (also called the reaction heat) of the  $i$  system elements are shown in Table 1.  $h_s$  is the total enthalpy. The subscript "c" indicates the condition at the outer fringe of the boundary

layer while the subscript "s" indicates the condition at the stagnation point. The meaning of the two are the same here.

1. 组元 i	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. 化学符号	OH <sub>2</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>	CO	H <sub>2</sub> O	O <sub>2</sub>	O	N <sub>2</sub>
3. 分子量 M <sub>i</sub>	16	44	28	18	32	16	28
M <sub>i</sub> <sup>0</sup>	1118	2137	943	811	0	-3493	0

Table 1. The molecular weights and the formation enthalpy ( $h_i^0$ , cal/kg) of the constituent elements within the boundary layer.

1. constituent element i
2. chemical symbol
3. molecular weight

We will now further assume that  $Le (= \rho D \bar{c}_p / \lambda)$  is a constant. This is different from the actual condition. The differences between the maximum values and the minimum values of the diffusion coefficients associated with different constituent elements can be quite large, sometimes exceeding 40%. The precise computation has two difficulties: the computational method for the calculation of our desired gas transport coefficients at high temperatures is still being studied and the equations for the computation of the transport coefficients are extremely complicated. The solutions of the main equation sets will be difficult to obtain if we were to consider this problem. It will take several more computations

and it is not advantageous for any preliminary study. Similarly, we assume that  $\rho\mu = \text{constant}$ , with  $\mu$  being the viscosity coefficient. We also assume that  $Pr = \text{constant}$ , with  $Pr = \mu\bar{c}_p/\lambda$ ,  $\lambda$  is the thermal conductivity coefficient,  $\bar{c}_p = \sum c_i c_{pi}$  and  $l = \rho\mu/\rho_c\mu_c = 1$ . In order to compensate for the deficiency of the  $l = 1$  assumption, we have selected several different constants for  $l$  in the computation. We have also treated  $Pr$  and  $Le$  in a similar fashion.

We assume that there are three chemical reactions occurring simultaneously within the boundary layer and they all reach chemical equilibria. There are a total of seven constituent elements and the nitrogen gas does not participate in the chemical reaction. In this way, each constituent element should satisfy three mass reaction principle relationship equations corresponding to the three chemical reactions (1)-(3) as:

$$\frac{C_1 C_2^2}{C_1 C_1^{1/2}} = \frac{K_p M_1 M_2^2}{M_1^{1/2} M_1 M_1^{1/2}} \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{C_1}{C_1 C_1^{1/2}} = \frac{K_p M_1 M_2^2}{M_1 M_1^{1/2}} \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{C_1^2}{C_1} = \frac{K_p M_1^2}{M_1 M_1} \quad (10)$$

Here  $M_p = \sum [C_i/M_i]^{-1}$ . These three relationship equations can substitute the three equations in (5).

Within the boundary layer which contains the seven constituent elements, as long as the mass flow is fixed, the four chemical elements H, C, O and N will be conserved regardless of the condition of the chemical reaction. This is due to the principle of conservation of mass for a closed system. We will

now introduce four new mass quotients of similar chemical elements as :  $\widehat{C}_1 = \widehat{C}_H = C_1 + 0.5M_1C_4/M_4$ ;  $\widehat{C}_2 = \widehat{C}_C = C_2 + C_1M_2/M_1 + C_3M_2/M_3$ ;  $\widehat{C}_5 = \widehat{C}_O = C_5 + 2C_2M_5/M_2 + 1.5 C_3M_5/M_3 + C_6$ ;  $\widehat{C}_7 = \widehat{C}_N = C_7$ . The mass formation rate corresponding to these four values are zero. We can thus obtain four relationship equations as:  $\omega_1 + 0.5 \omega_4 M_1/M_4 = 0$ ;  $\omega_2 + \omega_1M_2/ + \omega_3M_2/M_3 = 0$ ;  $\omega_5 + 2 \omega_2M_5/M_2 + 1.5 \omega_3M_5/M_3 + \omega_6 = 0$ ;  $\omega_7 = 0$ . We can now combine the diffusion equation (5) according to the fashion of these four relationship equations and obtain four more new equations.

$$[(D_e/Pr)\tilde{C}_n]_i + f\tilde{C}_n = 0 \quad (11)$$

$$j = 1, 2, 5, 7$$

The general solutions of these four equations are similar.

We can establish three relationship equations as

$$\frac{\tilde{C}_1 - \tilde{C}_{1w}}{\tilde{C}_1 - \tilde{C}_{1\infty}} = \frac{\tilde{C}_2 - \tilde{C}_{2w}}{\tilde{C}_2 - \tilde{C}_{2\infty}} = \frac{\tilde{C}_5 - \tilde{C}_{5w}}{\tilde{C}_5 - \tilde{C}_{5\infty}} = \frac{\tilde{C}_7 - \tilde{C}_{7w}}{\tilde{C}_7 - \tilde{C}_{7\infty}} = G(\eta) \quad (12)$$

The subscript "w" here indicates the condition at the surface of the wall. By differentiating these equations with respect to  $\eta$  and applying the relationship between the corresponding boundary conditions, we can transform them into the following three new equations.

$$C_1/M_1 + C_3/M_3 = C_4/(2M_4) \quad (13)$$

$$C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + C_4 + C_5 + C_6 + C_7 = 1$$

$$\frac{C_2}{M_2} + \frac{C_4}{2M_4} + \frac{C_5}{2M_5} + \frac{C_6}{M_6} + \frac{C_7}{2M_7} \quad (14)$$

$$- \frac{\tilde{C}_{1w}M_1}{M_1\tilde{C}_{1\infty}} \frac{C_1}{M_1} = \frac{0.2095}{0.7808} \frac{C_4}{M_4} \quad (15)$$

We can use these three equations to substitute any three equations

in (11). We will select and retain the equation

$$[(\mu c / Pr) \bar{c}_m]_1 + f \bar{c}_m = 0 \quad (16)$$

We can ultimately obtain the numerically solvable ordinary differential equations (6), (7), (16) and the algebraic equations (13)-(15), (8)-(10). After going through the transformation (4), we can write the corresponding boundary conditions of the differential equations as :

$$\eta = 0: f_1 = 0,$$

$$f = f_\infty = -(\rho V)_\infty \sqrt{2 \rho_\infty \mu (d u_\infty / dx)} \quad (A)$$

$$g = g_\infty, f_\infty (M_2 / M_1 - \bar{c}_m) = (\mu c / Pr) (\bar{c}_m)_\infty$$

$$\eta \rightarrow \infty: f_1 \rightarrow 1, g \rightarrow 1, \bar{c}_1 \rightarrow 0$$

(B) P.382

Under an outer flow temperature of 5000K, we should consider the contributions of the molecular translation, rotation and degrees of freedom of oscillation on the isobaric specific heat of the i constituent elements. The effect of the electron excitation energy can be neglected. In order to simplify the computational equations, we will use the following approximated equations with errors less than 2% :

$$\begin{aligned} c_{p1} &= 2.4894 - 0.60869(\theta^{-0.5} + 0.5\theta) \\ c_{p2} &= 0.41032 - 0.04936(\theta^{-0.5} + 0.5\theta) \\ c_{p3} &= 0.37966 - 0.04166(\theta^{-0.5} + 0.5\theta) \\ c_{p4} &= 1.003 - 0.05131\theta - 0.20263\theta^{-0.5} \\ c_{p5} &= 0.31319 - 0.02319(\theta^{-0.5} + 0.5\theta) \\ c_{p6} &= 0.311 \\ c_{p7} &= 0.3856 - 0.045846(\theta^{-0.5} + 0.5\theta) \end{aligned} \quad (C)$$

In this way we can compute  $\bar{c}_p$ . From the three dimensionless parameters obtained from the combination of the transport coefficients of the mixed gases, we now select certain combinations

of the following values: set  $l$  to be 0.5, 1, 1.5 and 2; set  $Pr$  to be 0.5, 0.71 and 1; set  $Le$  to be 1, 1.4, 2 and 4. Based on the assumptions mentioned earlier, we will take  $l = 1$ ,  $Pr = 0.71$  and  $Le = 1.4$  as the basic condition.

We then apply the computational method of thermal chemistry to obtain the chemical equilibrium constants associated with the chemical reaction equations (1)-(3). In order to simplify the computations, we will use the following approximated equations at temperatures below 8000K :

$$\begin{aligned} \lg K_{p1} &= 27835/(T, \theta) + 3.9056 \\ \lg K_{p2} &= 14483/(T, \theta) - 4.3919 \\ \lg K_{p3} &= 16.354 - 61530/(T, \theta) \end{aligned} \quad (D)$$

We can now numerically compute the ordinary differential equations along with their boundary conditions and the algebraic equations.

We can obtain the heat flow transferred into the object based on the energy equilibrium between the upper and the lower surfaces of the object<sup>[5]</sup>. After going through transformation (4), we can then obtain a heat flow computational equation similar to that in reference [7] .

$$q = \frac{\sqrt{2} l h_1}{Pr} \left\{ g_1(0) + \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{h_i - h_1^0}{h_i} (Le - 1) c_{i1} \right]_0 \right. \\ \left. - \int_0^1 \frac{Pr}{l} \frac{(h_{1x} - h_1^0) - h_{1x}}{h_i} \left[ \rho_i \mu_i \left( \frac{du_i}{dx} \right)_x \right]^{1/2} dx \right\} \quad (E)$$

The relationship equation for the frictional coefficient is:

$$c_f R_{\infty}^{1/2} = \sqrt{2} H_{q1}(0), \quad R_{\infty} = \rho_{\infty} \mu_{\infty} / \mu_1 \quad (F)$$

### III. DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS OF THE COMPUTATIONS

The conditions of having a temperature of 5000K at the outer fringe of the stagnation point boundary layer and a stagnation point pressure of 1 atmosphere are comparable to the conditions of an object flying at an altitude of thirty thousand meters with a Mach number of 15. We will now assign exclusively the "basic condition" as the variation in the properties of the stagnation point boundary layer when the dimensionless parameter  $-f_w$  increases from 0 to 0.533 under the conditions that  $l=1$ ,  $Pr=0.71$ ,  $Le=1.4$  and  $\theta(0)=0.4$ . We will now proceed with the discussion based on five different types of local modifications of the "basic condition".

1. Basic Condition In the absence of the injection, the heat flow at the stagnation point of the laminar flow boundary layer can be computed based on equation (63) in reference [7]. We can obtain  $q_0 = 1816 [\rho_c \mu_c (u_{cx})_s]^{0.5}$ . With a small amount of methane leaking from inside the wall, the methane will burn on the surface of the wall instantly since the wall temperature is higher than the ignition temperature of methane. The heat released from this process will be added directly on the surface of the wall, causing the transfer of heat flow to the surface of the wall to increase sharply with the increase in  $-f_w$ . This kind of phenomenon can be observed in Figure 1. For example, when  $-f_w=0.02$ ,  $q=2109 [\rho_c \mu_c (u_{cx})_s]^{0.5}$ . This value is obviously greater



than the value of  $q_0$ . When  $-f_w$  increases very significantly, the oxygen on the surface of the wall is not enough for the total oxidation of methane. The excess methane will enter the middle section of the boundary layer and the combustion within the boundary layer will be most intense and there will be the largest amount of heat released from this process. For example, when  $-f_w = 0.533$  the local maximum temperature within the boundary layer is 7300K, exceeding the temperature at the outer fringe of the layer. Different from the phenomenon of the burning of methane on the surface of the wall, this combustion heat will not be transferred directly onto the surface of the wall. The heat will only be transferred to the surface of the wall after a certain range of molecular diffusion and heat convection. By increasing the amount of the injection, we can thicken the boundary layer and hence reduce the heat transfer onto the surface of the wall. By combining these two effects, we can see that the heat flow actually transferred to the wall surface will be slightly lower than the maximum heat flow generated by burning on the surface of the wall. When  $-f_w = 0.533$ , the heat flow can be 43% lower than the  $q_0$  associated with the case of no injection. Except for values near the critical amount of injection, the heat flow decreases roughly linearly with the increase in the amount of the injection. We can also say that the decrease in heat flow is proportional to  $(-f_w)^{0.782}$ . We will call the amount of the injection that corresponds

to the maximum heat flow associated with the burning process on the surface of the wall the critical injection amount  $-f_w^*$ . Based on  $C_1(0) = C_5(0) = C_6(0) = 0$ , we can use the algebraic equations and the boundary conditions to solve for the values of the other concentrations on the surface of the wall. By following this procedure, we have obtained  $\tilde{C}_2(0)$  and  $-f_w^* = 0.0556$ . The result is shown in Figure 1 as the peak of the solid line.

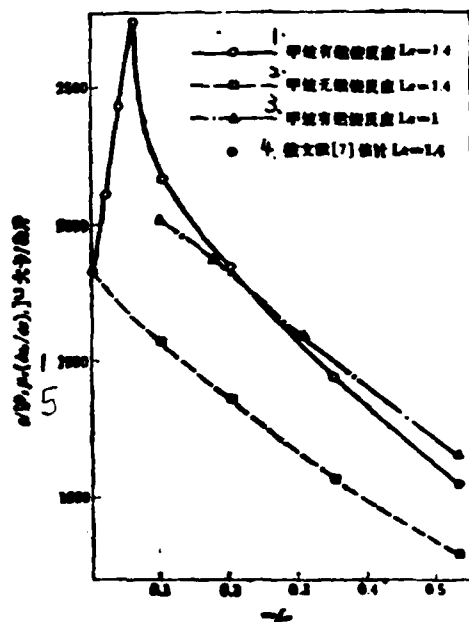


Figure 1. The variation of the thermal coefficient on the surface of the wall with the injection parameter  $-f_w$  in the presence and in the absence of the combustion reaction associated with the injection of methane at the stagnation point of the boundary layer.

The conditions are  $l=1$ ,  $Pr=0.71$  and  $\theta(0)$ .

1. methane with combustion reaction  $Le = 1.4$
  2. methane without combustion reaction  $Le = 1.4$
  3. methane with combustion reaction  $Le = 1$
  4. according to reference [7] and an estimated  $Le = 1.4$
  5. cal/kg
- 

2. Assume methane is an inert gas for the basic condition

This assumption is made so that the combustion heat release effect can be examined. We set  $C_2 \equiv C_3 \equiv C_4 \equiv 0$ , eliminate equations (8)-(10) and then solve the remaining equations. The dashed line in Figure 1 is a result of the monotonic decrease of heat flow with  $-f_w$ . The heat flow in this curve is low comparing to that in the solid line. The difference in the value of the heat flow between the case in which combustion exists and the case with no combustion reflects the effect of the release of the combustion heat. The difference in heat flow generally increases when  $-f_w$  increases to  $-f_w^*$ . Its maximum value is  $1090 [p_c \mu_c (u_{cx})_s]^{0.5}$ , equivalent to 60% of  $q_0$ . As shown by the solid line in Figure 2, the difference in heat flow becomes smoother with any further increase in  $-f_w$ . The dashed line in Figure 2 shows the ratio between heat flow associated with combustion and that associated with no combustion.

3. Let  $Le \equiv 1$  in the basic condition

The last term of the energy equation vanishes under this assumption, hence making the equation easier to solve. The result of the heat flow computed for this situation is shown as the dot-dash line in Figure 1. When  $-f_w > 0.1$ , this heat flow is close to the solid line.  $Le=1$  has very small influence on the equation, the type of temperature cross section is similar, the difference in the numerical values is small and the ultimate difference in heat flow is not high. All these indicate that the special case where  $Le=1$  can reflect the characteristics of the cases where  $Le \neq 1$ .

4. Let the temperature on the wall surface vary in the basic condition

The result of the computation is shown by the solid curve in Figure 3. The variation in heat flow is less than 6% when the wall temperature varies from 1500K to 3000K. This indicates that the influence of the wall temperature on the heat flow is not large.

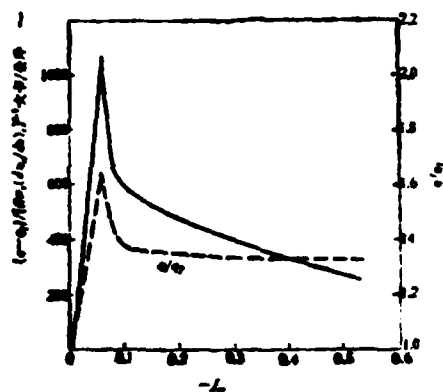


Figure 2. Differences in heat flow values between the case  
Key: 1- cal/kg

with combustion and the case without combustion, with methane as the injecting medium. This figure also shows the multiplication factor of the increased heat flow associated with the situation where combustion exists.

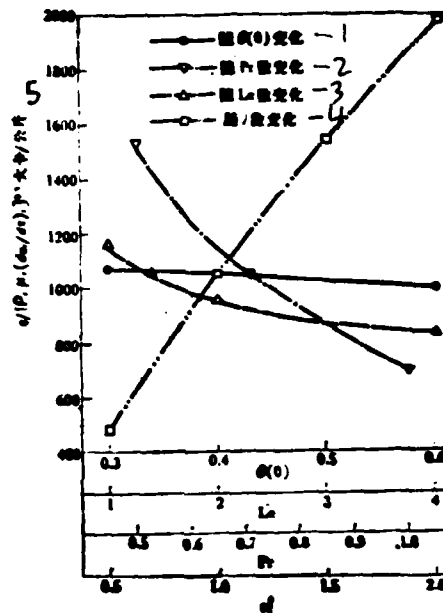


Figure 3. The variation of the heat flow on the wall surface with a single basic parameter, with the conditions that the basic parameters are fixed to be  $l = 1$ ,  $Pr = 0.71$ ,  $Le = 1.4$  and  $\theta(0) = 0.4$  and  $-f_w = 0.533$

1. variation with  $\theta(0)$
2. variation with  $Pr$
3. variation with  $Le$
4. variation with  $l$
5. Cal/kg

5. Let  $-f_w = 0.533$  in the basic condition and observe separately the effects of  $l$ ,  $Le$  and  $Pr$

Figure 3 shows the heat flow curve associated with  $0.5 \leq l \leq 2$  (double dot-dash line). The heat flow will increase more quickly with the increase in  $l$ . We can say that it is nearly directly proportional to  $(1.965 - 0.744l)$ . This result primarily reflects that fact that the increase in the viscosity coefficient will cause an increase in the frictional coefficient, hence affecting the energy exchange. The dashed line in Figure 3 shows the heat flow associated with  $1 \leq Le \leq 4$ . The heat flow decreases gradually with the increase in  $Le$ , nearly directly proportional to  $Le^{0.224}$ . This result mainly reflects the reduction of enthalpy and the gradient of enthalpy on the wall surface while the temperature gradient increases slightly. The combined effect causes the heat flow to decrease. The dot-dash line in Figure 3 shows the heat flow associated with  $0.5 \leq Pr \leq 1$ . The heat flow decreases rapidly with the increase in the  $Pr$  number, nearly directly proportional to  $Pr^{0.84}$ . This result mainly reflects the simultaneous reduction of the enthalpy and temperature gradients on the surface of the wall, hence reducing the energy exchange. The momentum exchange, however, increases slightly.

The reason why we are considering the effect of the

individual variations of  $\lambda$ ,  $Le$  and  $Pr$  on the heat transfer is to try to compensate for the drawback that the real values of the transport coefficients can not be determined. After obtaining the estimates based on other methods, we can estimate the heat flow by interpolating the curves shown in Figure 3.

The discussion of the conclusion mentioned above remains to be examined by future experiments and more accurate theories. The transport coefficients also need more further studies.

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